



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO FELONS SENTENCED FOR
FIREARM POSSESSION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today in separate and unrelated cases for being felons in possession of a firearm. The sentences mark the culmination of two cases prosecuted under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Terrence S. Diamond**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to eight years and nine months in federal prison without parole. The judge departed upward in this case, sentencing **Diamond** to more time in federal prison because he posed a substantial risk to the community, Graves said.

On Jan. 9, 2003, **Diamond** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 17, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Diamond** admitted that he was in possession of a Norinco semi-automatic rifle on Dec. 30, 2000. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Diamond** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

Diamond was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on Aug. 16, 2002, in Kansas City.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Marcus D. Watson**, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to two years in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 14, 2003, **Watson** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 5, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Watson** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol on Feb. 28, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Watson** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for promoting prostitution in New Mexico.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 432 defendants, and convictions against 362 of those defendants, including 339 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 317 of the 362 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 44 currently await sentencing hearings.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

